

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 /072 W  
-----109593 010610Z /11

R 301153Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5766  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 07577

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, GE, GW, IT  
SUBJECT: ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ON INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS  
- AND EURO-COMMUNISM

1. DURING A CALL ON SEPTEMBER 28, ITALIAN AMBASSADOR BEHMANN DELL'ELMO COMMENTED ON SOME OF THE BASIC FACTORS INFLUENCING INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS. BEHMANN DELL'ELMO, WHO HAS BEEN HERE SINCE 1975, NOTED THAT INNER-GERMAN THE "HOT SUMMER" OF 1976. HE SAID BOTH STATES, HOWEVER, TENDED TO BE RATHER AGGRESSIVE TOWARD EACH OTHER, WHICH PRODUCED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CONFLICT AND TENSION; THIS IS A KEY PROBLEM IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

2. BEHMANN DELL'ELMO NOTED THE FRG WAS MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO KEEP ALIVE THE PROSPECTS OF REUNIFICATION AND THE NOTION OF ONE NATION BUT TWO STATES. THE GDR ON THE OTHER HAND WAS ON THE DEFENSIVE; IT SEEKS TO DEMONSTRATE ITS INDEPENDENCE AND SEPARATENESS. IT WANTS NO INTER-FERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS FROM THE FRG. THE REGIME RECOGNIZES ITS LIMITED SUPPORT AMONG THE EAST  
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GERMAN POPULATION; IT SEEKS THROUGH PROPAGANDA AND OTHER DEVICES TO INSTILL A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY AND EAST GERMANY AS A NATION. BEHMANN DELL'ELMO ADDED THAT THERE WERE ONLY TWO MILLION MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. MANY OF THESE WERE OPPORTUNISTS RATHER THAN TRUE BELIEVERS.

3. I NOTED THAT THE GDR REGIME TENDED TO PLAY UP DEFECTS OR DIFFICULTIES IN THE FRG SOCIETY, PRESUMABLY TO ENHANCE ITS INTERNAL STABILITY. THE USUAL THEMES IN THE MEDIA WERE UNEMPLOYMENT, TERRORISM, EMERGENCE OF NEO-NAZISM, AND THE KAPPLER AFFAIR. BEHMANN DELL'ELMO SAID THE GDR LEADERSHIP HAD A GENUINE FEAR OF NEO-NAZISM; MANY OF THESE LEADERS WERE OVER SIXTY AND MEMBERS OF THE PRE-WAR COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN GERMANY. AS SUCH, THEY HAD BEEN VICTIMS OF NAZISM. BEHMANN DELL'ELMO SAID THE REGIME WANTED TO MAKE THE YOUNGER GENERATION AWARE OF NAZISM AND THE NEED TO PROTECT THE GDR AGAINST IT. ACCORDING TO BEHMANN DELL'ELMO, THE REGIME ALSO FEARS THAT THE WAVE OF TERRORISM IN THE FRG WILL LEAD TO THE EMERGENCE OF A RIGHTIST GOVERNMENT IN THE FRG. HONECKER FEELS THAT HE HAS WORKED OUT A MODUS OPERANDI WITH THE SPD LEADERSHIP AND BELIEVES THAT A STRAUSS- OR CDU-LED GOVERNMENT IN BONN WOULD BE A REAL SET-BACK TO THE DETENTE PROCESS. ACCORDING TO BEHMANN DELL'ELMO, THE GDR OFFERED TO COOPERATE IN RESOLVING THE KAPPLER AFFAIR BY PROVIDING INFORMATION, ETC. THE GOI REFUSED AND SAW THIS AS A GDR ATTEMPT TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN ITALY AND THE FRG.

4. I ASKED BEHMANN DELL'ELMO TO COMMENT ON EURO-COMMUNISM AND ITS IMPACT IN THE GDR. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT EURO-COMMUNISM WOULD HELP LOOSEN UP THE GDR SYSTEM IN THE LONG RUN. HE SAID THE GDR DID NOT LIKE SOVIET DOMINATION.  
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IN THIS CONNECTION, BEHMANN DELL'ELMO CALLED MY ATTENTION TO SED CHAIRMAN HONECKER'S STATE VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA; IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE THE SED RECOGNIZED FOR THE FIRST TIME THE "VARIETY OF FORMS AND WAYS" TO ACHIEVE SOCIALISM BECAUSE OF THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN EACH COUNTRY.  
BOLEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, GC, GE, IT, (DELL'ELMO, BEHMANN)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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